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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/896,074	06/28/2001	Thomas P. Glenn	G0037M	9522

7590

03/21/2003

Serge J. Hodgson
Gunnison, McKay & Hodgson, L.L.P.
Garden West Office Plaza, Suite 220
1900 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940

EXAMINER

COLEMAN, WILLIAM D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2823

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/896,074

Applicant(s)

GLENN ET AL.

Examiner

W. David Coleman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sasano, U.S. Patent 6,313,525.

5. Pertaining to claim 1, Sasano discloses a semiconductor process as claimed. See **FIG. 1** where Sasano discloses a method comprising:

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forming a central aperture in a substrate **1**;

forming electrically conductive trace **6** on a first surface of said substrate, said trace comprising a tab (area **4**); and

supporting an image sensor **6** in said central aperture by said tab.

6. Pertaining to claim 6, Sasano teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said supporting comprises forming a bump between a bond pad on a first surface of said image sensor and said tab.

7. Pertaining to claim 7, Sasano teaches the method of claim 6, wherein said supprong comprises forming a bump between a bond pad on a first surface of said image sensor and said tab.

8. Pertaining to claim 8, Sasano teaches the method of claim 7 further comprising coupling a window to said first surface of said image sensor, said window covering and protecting said active area.

9. Pertaining to claim 9, Sasano teaches the method of claim 8 further comprising directing radiation at said image sensor, said radiation striking said window, passing through said window, and striking said active area, said active area responding to said radiation.

10. Pertaining to claim 10, Sasano teaches the method of claim 7, wherein said tab extends below a periphery of said central aperature.

11. Pertaining to claim 11, Sasano teaches the method of claim 1 wherein said forming an electrically conductive trace comprises:

coupling an electrically conductive sheet to said first surface of said substrate; and
patterning said sheet to form said trace

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasano, U.S. Patent 6,313,525 as applied to claim 1 and in further view of Peterson et al., U.S. Patent 6,384,473 B1.

14. Sasano discloses a semiconductor process substantially as claimed.

Pertaining to claim 5, Sasano fails to teach the method of claim 1 wherein said supporting comprises flip chip mounting said image sensor to said tab. Peterson teaches flip chip mounting an image sensor. In view of Peterson, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the flip chip mounting of an image device in the Sasano semiconductor process because the light-sensitive side is optically accessible through the window (see Abstract, 3rd sentence).

Allowable Subject Matter

15. Claims 13-21 allowed.

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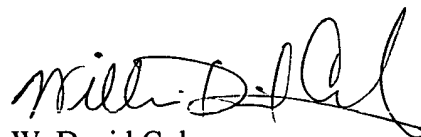
Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to W. David Coleman whose telephone number is 703-305-0004.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on 703-306-2794. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7721 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. David Coleman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

W. David Coleman
Examiner
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WDC
March 20, 2003